(ii) It has been decided to allot foodgrains for APL category at the discounted rate of 70% of the economic cost.

Procurement of Levy Rice in Andhra Pradesh

1989. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has instructed to stop purchase of paddy and give preference to procurement of levy rice in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the procurement of rice made till date during this year in the State and the target set up for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN):(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 6.8.2001, a quantity of 65.77 lakh MTs of levy rice has been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Andhra Pradesh as against the target of 70 lakh MTs fixed for the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001. Besides FCI will also accept Custom Milled Rice out of 70% share of 10 lakh tonnes of paddy from the State Agencies of Andhra Pradesh.

Welfare Measures for Poor

1990. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether hunger and poverty compelled a mother to sell her son for Rs. 300/- in New Jalpaiguri as reported in news-papers on 26th June, 2001; and

(b) if so, the welfare measures proposed to be taken to feed those who cannot afford to purchase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Government of West

Bengal have reported that one Sita Balua of Thakurganj, Bihar reportedly maintaining her living by begging was found lying with her male child (about one year old) at Jaleswari Market under Bhaktinagar P.S. in the district of Jalpaiguri. Since she was very ill and was no longer in a position to maintain her son, she expressed to general public gathering there that she would handover her son to anybody who will look after him as their child. Hearing this, one Kalu Ghosh of No. 1 Dabgram, P.S. Siliguri who was married about 15 years back but had no issue came forward and expressed his willingness to adopt her son. Shri Ghosh adopted this child in presence of some witnesses. The woman wanted some money so that she could go back to Bihar. Shri Ghosh then gave her Rs. 300/- for the purpose. Smt. Balua is reported to have left for Bihar after that.

(b) Besides allotment of foodgrains to the States/UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) at 50% of the economic cost and for Antyodaya families under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) at Rs. 2 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 per Kg. for rice, and allocation of foodgrains under various Welfare Schemes at BPL rates, the Government have taken the following measures to provide foodgrains to the needy people:

1. Foodgrains are supplied to the States/UTs free of cost under the Mid-day Meals Scheme which is applicable to the students of primary schools;

2. Foodgrains are supplied to the indigent Sr. Citizens who are above 65 years of age and are eligible for pension under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) but not getting pension @ 10 kg. per person per month under the Annapurna Scheme.

3. About 18.19 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allotted to the drought-affected States in 2001 free of cost for organizing various employment generation programmes under Food for Work Programme in the drought-affected areas.